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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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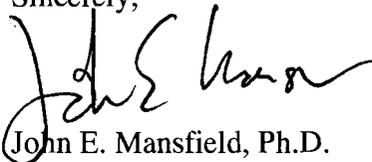
October 15, 2009

The Honorable Inés R. Triay
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0113

Dear Dr. Triay:

During the past several months, the staff of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has reviewed the design, testing, and controls associated with the air pulse agitators for the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) at the Savannah River Site. The Board believes that, given appropriate controls and operational parameters, the air pulse agitators should fulfill the functions assumed in the safety basis. The selection of these controls and parameters must account for the limitations of the testing and modeling performed for these devices. Refinement or elimination of safety controls related to vessel agitation, currently under consideration by the SWPF project, needs to be based on conservative assumptions of the physical properties and the associated hydrogen retention and release mechanisms of the mixtures that may be present in SWPF process vessels. The enclosed report details the results of the staff's review and is provided for your information and use as appropriate.

Sincerely,



John E. Mansfield, Ph.D.
Vice Chairman

Enclosure

c: Mr. Jeffrey M. Allison
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.